

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A catcher for receiving expended shell casings from a firearm having an ejection port as the firearm is discharged, the catcher comprising:

a hollow housing having a plurality of rigid walls, wherein one of the walls has an opening in communication with the ejection port when the catcher is mounted to the firearm for receiving the shell casings; and

a lining fixed inside the rigid walls, wherein the lining comprises an acoustic foam having a plurality of wedges and the wedges are configured to deflect the shell casings into the catcher, and each of the wedges has a front face that is slanted away from the opening such that the casings are deflected away from the opening and a rear face that is perpendicular to the planar surface of the housing or slanted away from the opening such that the casings are resisted from traveling back toward the opening even when bouncing inside the housing.

2. (original) The catcher of claim 1 further comprising a seal attached to the housing at the opening, wherein the seal is configured to provide a substantially air-tight path between the ejection port and the opening.

3. (original) The catcher of claim 1 wherein the acoustic foam is a partially-open cell foam having approximately 85% cell reticulation.

4. (original) The catcher of claim 2 wherein the seal comprises a resilient, compliant material in a solid, gel-sac, closed-cell foam, or skin covered foam configuration.

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The catcher of claim 1 wherein each of the wedges has a height that is equal to or greater than the diameter of the cartridge casing that is captured by the catcher.

7. (original) The catcher of claim 1 wherein the wedges are adjacent or separated by a gap.

8. (previously presented) The catcher of claim 1 wherein the front surface of each of the wedges is covered by a layer of a perforated material.

9. (previously presented) The catcher of claim 1 wherein the front surface and the rear surface of each of the wedges is covered by a layer of a perforated material.

10. (previously presented) A method of reducing jamming of a firearm as a spent cartridge is ejected from an ejection port into a cartridge casing catcher when the firearm is discharged, the method comprising:

providing a hollow housing having a plurality of rigid walls, wherein one of the walls has an opening in communication with the ejection port when the catcher is mounted to the firearm for receiving the shell casings; and

fixing a lining inside the rigid walls, wherein the lining comprises an acoustic foam having a plurality of wedges and the wedges are configured to deflect the shell casings into the catcher, and each of the wedges has a front face that is slanted away from the opening such that the casings are deflected away from the opening and a rear face that is perpendicular to the planar surface of the housing or slanted away from the opening such that the casings are resisted from traveling back toward the opening even when bouncing inside the housing.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 further comprising attaching a seal to the housing at the opening, wherein the seal is configured to provide a substantially air-tight path between the ejection port and the opening.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the acoustic foam is a partially-open cell foam having approximately 85% cell reticulation.

13. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the seal comprises a resilient, compliant material in a solid, gel-sac, closed-cell foam, or skin covered foam configuration.

14. (canceled)

15. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein each of the wedges has a height that is equal to or greater than the diameter of the cartridge casing that is captured by the catcher.

16. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the wedges are adjacent or separated by a gap.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the front surface of each of the wedges is covered by a layer of a perforated material.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the front surface and the rear surface of each of the wedges is covered by a layer of a perforated material.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)